

REMARKS

These remarks are in response to the Office Action of Examiner Ghau T. Nguyen, dated 6 January 2005

Claims 1, and 3-5 and 9-11 are in the case, none having been allowed.

35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 3-5 and 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jones et al., U.S. Patent 6,199,098, Junkin, U.S. Patent 6,493,717, and further in view of Ferrel et al. (Ferrel), U.S. Patent No. 5,878,421.

Jones et al. pertains to the expandable nature of a site map or table of contents (TOC). As the Examiner observes, Jones does not explicitly teach providing a site navigation view as an index on the content database, the index being dynamically updated whenever additions or deletions of area category or content items are made to the

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content database, and executing an agent to access the site navigation view to obtain and display to the user current area category and items for the content database. [See Office Action, at page 3.]

For these teachings, the Examiner refers to Junkin. Junkin teaches a system and method involving a data crawler for managing database information, such as store inventory and pricing information, or flight and passenger information, to be presented in HTML format for retrieval and display by a Web browser.

The Examiner also observes that neither Junkin nor Jones teach that a table of contents or site view can be dynamically updated in the matter previously claimed using an agent in combination with a site map form and a table of content form. [See Office Action, at page 4].

For these teachings, the Examiner refers to Ferrel and asserts that the teachings of Junkin, Jones and Ferrel can be combined, the motivation being to eliminate the tedious manual entry of navigation links. In making this combination, applicants argue, the Examiner is using applicants' own disclosure as a road map to combine

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disparate teachings from these three references, which, in the absence of a suggestion from the references to do so is not proper.

However, in order to move prosecution forward, applicants have amended the claims to recite the specific steps executed by the sitemap agent (Table 4), steps which are not taught by any of Junkin, Jones, and Ferrel, or their combination.

In accordance with applicants' invention, when a user requests to see the site map or the table of contents, a call is made to the create map agent (Table 4).

This agent looks into one or more views identifying navigational content for the site, sorted by category. The agent takes each document in the order they appear in the view, and builds an HTML page containing bulleted lists of links, separated by the category names identified in the content in a list format (for table of contents) or HTML table format (for site map). This is done as follows.

First, it is determined if the call made was for site map or table of contents (line 13). If site map, then set

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up the initial table structure (lines 14-20). For a table of contents, then do not use a table structure (lines 22-25)

The navigational view is identified (line 28) and the first document is read from that view (line 29), setting the first category name as the category identified in the document (line 36). More readable titles for the category and category links are set up based on the category from the document (lines 37-67). The appropriate table structure is set up with the first document only (lines 68-72) and a bulleted list is started for this category, providing an HTML link to a category page (lines 74-77).

The subcategory structure is checked (line 80) and a sub-bulleted list is started with an HTML link to a subcategory page for a site map (lines 82-87) or just the name of the subcategory for table of contents (lines 89-92).

An HTML link is created (lines 93, 96-97), pointing to the document or to another location on the site if it is defined in the document, with link information that is contained in the Title field in the document.

The next document is read by the agent (line 129). If

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the category name is different from the category name of the previous document, then the bulleted list is closed, the new category name is added to the HTML page, and a new bulleted list is started and processed just as was done for the first category described above (lines 37-97).

If the category name in the document is within the current category, the subcategory structure is checked (line 100) and if different than the previous subcategory, then the sub-bulleted list is closed, and a sub-bulleted list is started with an HTML link to a subcategory page for a site map (lines 103-108) or just the name of the subcategory for table of contents (lines 110-113). An HTML link is created (lines 113-114, 118-119), pointing to the document or to another location on the site if it is defined in the document, with link information that is contained in the Title field in the document.

This process continues until all documents in all navigational views are exhausted. When there are no more documents to process, the agent handles some special case categories (lines 132-153), and closes the bulleted list and table structure, and saves the HTML page (lines 155-157) so the server can then present the page to the user.

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The amendments to the claims, which track the above description of the process described in Table 4, do not represent new matter, and describe an agent for serving HTML pages in a manner not described by the art references cited by the Examiner.

Consequently, applicants urge that the amendment be entered, and claims 1, 3-5, and 9-11 allowed.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant urges that the above amendments be entered and the case passed to issue with claims 1, and 3-5 and 9-11.

The Application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P.

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Sections 707.02(j) and 707.03 in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the Application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Sincerely,

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By


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